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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT 25X1A2g

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

25X1A6a

DATE:**INFO.****SUBJECT** Activities at the Leuna-Werke,
Merseburg

DIST. 26 December 1946

ORIGIN

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PAGES 2**SUPPLEMENT**

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1. Even superficial inspection by travellers on the adjacent railroad line reveals that the Leuna-Werk (D91) near Merseburg has been dismantled to a great extent. Most of the production plants have disappeared, with only a few of the numerous chimneys left standing. Only about one-third of the former factory grounds contain buildings, most of them old ones in the northern section.
2. At the end of October 1946, employee strength was estimated at 25-30,000. Of this number, some 7,000 experienced workers were occupied with plant tasks; the others were engaged in dismantling activities or were maintained as extras subject to distribution as required in various sections. A number of women workers were told that they would be released during the first week in November. During the recent SED campaign, Pieck and other party leaders appeared at Leuna and promised not only the reconstruction of the plant but the production, for agricultural use, of 300,000 tons of nitrogen. This is doubted by some employees.
3. Future production at Leuna involves three factors:
 - a) The coke supply.
 - b) The repair of vital parts.
 - c) Maintenance of production (presumably at present rate) in the face of the breakdown of vital parts.
4. The chief raw material needed at Leuna is coke, formerly obtained from the Ruhr, Silesia and the Zwickau area. The huge coke stock-piles which were visible along the railroad immediately after the war have disappeared. Although no figures are available on fuel consumption, it is believed that it is impossible for the factory to produce gasoline and nitrogen simultaneously under present conditions.

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ADSO	X FEP	X FBT	SPDF	VTO	Groer	X	OCL	X
DADSO	FBK	FBV	SPDS	3 DEP.		X		GSA
EXEC.	FBL	FBX	SPDT	SPCA		X	/	
CONTROL						X		
PLANS	X FEP	SPUA	TRB	X				

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5. The fuel lack was so marked in October 1946 that the synthetic gasoline plant was operated for some nine days because there was no reserve to supply plant vehicles. This section was then closed, but there are still five chambers (Kammern) capable of gasoline production. Five chambers will remain for nitrogen production after the dismantling of the more modern installations in this section of the plant. Present raw material stocks would permit these five chambers to produce 300,000 tons of nitrogen, but it would be technically impossible to keep all five chambers working at the same time.
6. The Leuna-Werk was so constructed that the full capacity of its installations was never used. Some of the plants were always laid up for repairs, substitution of equipment, etc. This situation was further complicated by the scarcity of high grade metal in Germany, necessitating the use of poorer grades and the testing of possible substitutes in special laboratories at Leuna. One of the chief technicians employed was a Doctor Wyszomirski, who has been sent to Russia. One of his assistants informed source that there is no longer any reserve metal stock for the necessary steel and iron pipes, and other machine parts.
7. There is also a shortage of expert personnel. Technical construction of I.G.Farben in Central Germany, using experience of the Leuna-Werke, was carried out by the UHDE group of engineers. These specialists worked on the decentralization of Leuna and the construction of several hydrogenation plants (at Magdeburg, Zeitz, Pieseritz, etc). All these UHDE people are said to have been deported by the Russians.
8. In 1928, Leuna employed 20,000 persons in its fertilizer production plants and some 2,000 in the sections handling coal liquification. At the peak of Soviet dismantling operations, 30,000 persons were used. It is believed, however, that in the near future the installation will not be able to support more than 6-7,000 employees.
9. Since the Russians regard any qualified worker as a specialist, and such specialists will be needed as soon as the dismantled Leuna installations are set up in the USSR, it is believed that further deportations of personnel may occur. Rumors to this effect are now circulating at Leuna.

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